

Minutes for Syringe Advisory Board
January 29, 2019

Members Present: Judy Sousa, Rachel Waldman, Aaron Ostrom, Sarah Kerr, Sgt. Leonard LaFrance, Dr. Donald Baird, Greg Sparks Ex Officio

Guests: Via teleconference Matt Curtis, California Department of Public Health, Office of Aids

1. Approve Minutes of December 17, 2018. Judy Sousa requested additions; Motion to approve as amended by Aaron Ostrom, seconded by Rachel Waldman, All aye.
2. Co-Chair Sarah Kerr introduced Matt Curtis and discussion ensued regarding perspectives from CDPH on syringe disposal.
 - Matt Curtis noted a re-framing of the issue: syringe litter is alarming to people; California law makes it difficult to dispose of sharps, but noted that Humboldt County has numerous locations for disposal; Noted the change in state law last year that provided for Medical Waste Stewardship Law-places responsibility on manufacturers-this will impact syringe recovery; reasons for problem areas is that some people make decisions for disposal based on fear of being caught with syringes.
 - Sgt. LaFrance noted that half of the people he works with have a plan for disposal and the other half do not. He believes that 80% of the homeless population have an addiction.
 - Sarah Kerr indicated that HACHR is overcoming some barriers but open hours are limited and have moved to a modified 1/1 exchange model.
 - Matt Curtis noted that two primary reasons impede safe disposal: Police practices-concern about being charged with drug paraphernalia and Theft-insecurity as a result of street homeless being moved around. He reviewed what is being done in other communities: San Francisco expanded outdoor kiosks, wall mounted at many locations including Walgreens, and medical clinics. Orange County mapped the syringe litter to identify high needs areas.
 - Discussion regarding kiosks, locations, etc. It was noted that there are 10-11 free pantries around the area.
 - Aaron Ostrom brought up the See, Click, Fix phone application and how that could be utilized for syringe litter.
 - The Committee recommends that See, Click, Fix be looked into.
 - Sarah Kerr will send out the Orange County Report to the board.
3. Future Meetings
 - a. February 25, invite pharmacist
 - b. City send out a doodle poll for future meetings